UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Renewal

IN THE INNER CITY

Chicago City Missionary Society

VOLUME 1 | SEPTEMBER 1961 | NUMBER 5

Summer Programs Show Record-Breaking Attendance as More Than 2,000 Children Enter Camps and Bible Schools

More than 2,000 city youngsters participated in the Society's summer programs, making the enrollment the largest in the Society's history. While final statistics on the exact number of campers are still to be compiled, Mr. Gunnar Peterson, Director of Outdoor Education, said that more than 700 campers were at Pleasant Valley Farm and at Bridgman. Teenagers in work units were housed in the Valley Cottage near the farm buildings; older campers used tents and sleeping bags in the primitive camps and outposts on Indian Ridge; the Travel Unit camped on the farmgrounds during the time the campers were at the farm before and after they completed eight days of travel through the Midwest. The regular Hilltop Camp was filled to capacity all summer.

CCMS Uses Camp in Michigan

There were so many extra children who wanted, and needed, to go to camp that the Society used for two periods the camp at Bridgman, Mich. that belongs to the First Congregational Church. While two Mothers' Camps and one Family Camp were at Pleasant Valley during the last two weeks of August, travel campers, the teenage work units and some Indian Ridge campers used other sections of the farm.

The two day camps in Miller Meadows, near Maywood, and at Whistler's Woods, 134th and Halsted streets, had record enrollments. Buses picked up the children early in the morning and returned them in the late afternoon. In addition to their programs in the forest preserves, day campers went swimming, had cook-outs, and visited museums, beaches and ball games.

TRAVEL CAMPERS—Mr. Gunnar A. Peterson, left, and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Trauger, right, confer with the eight boys in the first Travel Unit.
—Photo by Fabian, Park Ridge

Bible Schools Held in City Churches

Daily vacation Bible schools in inner city churches served several hundred children. Many of the children who attended the schools went on to either the day camps, Pleasant Valley, or Bridgman. The Society furnished several students as teachers to help the churches offer expanded service to the children of their communities. One minister reported that there are 3,500 children, 11 years old or under, who live within three blocks of his church. In the nine blocks surrounding his church, there are 1,300 public housing units with 7,000 residents—54 per cent of them are 14 years old or under. It is in areas such as this one that the Society gave the most assistance by furnishing teachers and giving financial aid.

A great effort was made this year to help each child have two weeks of Bible school and camp. Some children had only two weeks of summer experience but others were in all of the programs.

STORY HOUR—Miss Gerri Pollard tells a Bible story to four of the children who attended daily vacation Bible school at the Jackson Boulevard Christian Church.
—Photo by Frank C. Zak

Chapel exercises added religious emphasis to the camp programs. Each child at Pleasant Valley was told by Mr. Hank Murray, resident director, the story of how and why Pleasant Valley was purchased in 1953.

"The Society is indeed grateful to the many ministers, student and volunteer workers, camp counselors from 38 colleges and universities, the farm staff, the teenagers who worked at Pleasant Valley, and to our many friends who helped us with contributions. This summer's record enrollment of children from 22 churches and seven program centers shows the tremendous need for these services," said the Rev. Don Benedict, General Director of the Society.

Needs Gifts to Pay Increased Costs

The greatly increased enrollment raised the costs of the summer programs considerably. Friends who want to help these needy and grateful youngsters will find a coupon for gifts on page 4.

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FROM SOUTH OF THE BORDER—Some of the 30 educators from eight Latin American countries are shown above as they listen to Dr. Rafael V. Martinez (not in photo) describe the services of the Casa Central. —Photo by Frank C. Zak

New Location Aids Spanish Programs

The past summer was one of bustling activity for staff members and volunteer workers of the Casa Central. While painters and carpenters were renovating the four-story Carpenter Building on N. Ashland av., children were being enrolled for Bible schools and camp and office workers were conducting many other programs.

The Society's five-year-old ministry to Spanish-speaking newcomers moved to its new quarters adjacent to the First Congregational Church on July 1.

Dr. Rafael V. Martinez and his staff members were hosts to 30 educators from eight South American countries in mid-August. The teachers, participants in a "Point Four" tour of the United States, as well as representatives of local Puerto Rican offices expressed their appreciation of the spacious new quarters which permit greatly increased services by Casa Central to the thousands of Spanish-speaking citizens of Chicago.

RENEWAL

Published 10 times annually by
Chicago City Missionary Society
19 South La Salle Street, Chicago 3, Illinois
Telephone—CEntral 6-4830

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Minister Starts Project in Lawndale

The Society's most recent inner city project, the Lawndale Community Services, has been developing rapidly this summer under the active leadership of the Rev. Louis D. Mitchell.

Since joining the Society's staff on July 1, Mr. Mitchell has visited several similar inner city projects—the Harlem Unit of the New York City Mission Society, East Harlem Protestant Parish, and the Inner City Protestant Parish in Cleveland—to gather ideas that might be beneficial in the Lawndale program.

Much of Mr. Mitchell's time this summer was spent with the ministers and other leaders in North Lawndale to get acquainted with the community, its people, and their problems.

Learns Problems of Community

Problems in the area include the gangs of neglected youth, lack of opportunity for youth employment, lack of job preparation, and insufficient guided group and recreational opportunities, especially for the school "drop-outs."

"At present we envisage the CCMS project in Lawndale as one that will help the local churches and the adults of the community to realize their responsibilities as they relate to the home, the church, the city, and the neighborhood. The major focus of the Lawndale Community Services will be on helping the local churches to develop services to the youth in the church's neighborhood," Mr. Mitchell explained.

"We have found that the concerns of the ministers in Lawndale are parallel to those of the Society. Many churches are giving local leadership and training but there is a great need for helping them to develop many more workers and programs that are dedicated to community service and leadership," said the Rev. John R. Schwenke.

"Our plans call for helping the local churches to conduct youth programs through their existing church facilities rather than setting up an agency outside the existing churches and other community services. We feel that the programs will be more effective this way as well as more available to larger groups of people," Mr. Schwenke explained.

Create Church from Former Tavern

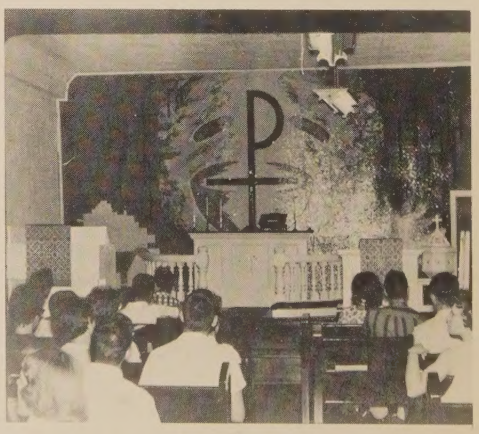
One of the most creative projects in inner city church work is being done at Bethlehem Church, 1925 S. Loomis st. The Rev. and Mrs. Tom Johnson, minister and religious education director respectively, are the moving forces in the new ministry. This summer they were assisted in loyal and efficient fashion by Miss Fran Fisher and Mr. Don Palmgren, summer workers, several high school girls from the Edgebrook Community Church and work crews from St. Charles, and many other volunteers.

The church has been created by these talented workers from an old tavern into a beautiful place of worship. The building has been cleaned, painted, scrubbed and decorated by many willing hands. Long, laborious hours by the Johnsons and the work crews resulted in a church that recently won one of the awards given by the Pilsen Neighbors Community Association for property improvement.

The art work done by the Johnsons and others is outstanding. Tom and Pat Johnson designed a mosaic mural for the front wall and used 65,000 pieces of colored glass in creating the mosaic design (see photo). Murals were painted on another wall by Mrs. John Reed.

Twenty-four children of the church participated in five summer programs—Bible school, day camp, Pleasant Valley camp, Friendly Town, and field trips around Chicago with the Johnsons.

FROM TAVERN TO CHAPEL—Camp counselors visited Bethlehem Chapel during a city tour. The chapel, formerly a tavern, was decorated and renovated by the Rev. and Mrs. Tom Johnson and many volunteers.



Nine Internes Work in City Churches

Three members of the Society's new interne program, who have been serving in inner city churches this summer, will be joined by six others in September.

Starting this month, the internes will meet with the Rev. and Mrs. Don Benedict for orientation sessions. These weekly meetings will include Bible study, discussions and evaluation of the internes' inner city work, and will lead to the development of a disciplined life together.

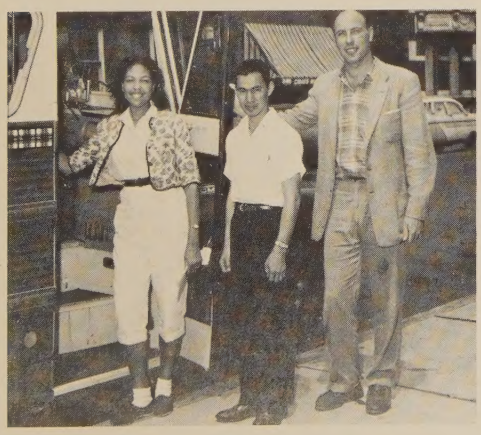
The internes, now on a year's assignment to churches in Chicago, will also be joined this month by two new members of the Society's staff. Mr. John Roberts, Union Theological Seminary, will develop a personal ministry to teenagers and their families; and Mr. George Ralph, also of Union, will study the field of religious drama.

Campers' Stories Tell Summer Fun

The story of summer camps can best be told by the children themselves. Below are excerpts from their camp newspapers.

"I am a camper in the Travel Unit and I'll tell you of some of the things we do. Each camper pitches in and helps with the cooking, dishwashing, table setting and fire building. This goes for setting up the tents, cots, and sleeping bags, also. We camped in state parks and visited churches, colleges, and historical places. It is something new, different and exciting, and lots of fun, in my opinion."

CAMP COUNSELORS SEE THE CITY — Shown below during an inner city tour are Miss Pat Watson, American Friends Service Committee; Mr. Michio Oyakawa, Hawaii; and Mr. Hank Murray, Winnetka, resident director, Pleasant Valley camp.



"Dear Counselor—I am very, very sorry for the way I acted by calling you all kinds of bad names. Will you forgive me, please? When I was on the train, going home, I cried because I hated to leave you. You were the first person I ever met from another country and I hope you do good in college next year. I bless you with all my heart! (One of your campers)"

"The farm is a good place to have fun. In the fields you can see the horses which you can ride. Their names are Choo-Choo and Chester. It is fun to take the eggs out of the chicken nests. Campers also help weed the garden and harvest the beans, peas and onions for our dinners. Everyone has a chance to go to the farm and help. After the chores are finished, the campers take turns riding Choo-Choo and Chester."

"In order for us to become Indians we had to pass three tests—silence, bravery and service. We also tried to learn to do Indian dances but it took us a long time to learn them. Then came the big night when we had to dance before the whole camp. Everybody was nervous except our counselors but they didn't have to dance."

"The baby burro at PVF was born on July 27. Its parents are 'Mr. and Mrs. Francis.' The baby burro has long ears and very long legs. We had two days to think up a boy's name and enter it in the name contest. The baby burro was named 'Hank' which is also the name of one of our counselors."

"At night, we all assembled on the porch to go to the chapel service. It was held in the Outdoor Chapel near the Nature House. We sang hymns and read from the hymnal. Barb led a responsive reading and we sang 'Now the Day is Over.' Hank talked about 'The Lord is My Shepherd' and Beye played the organ."

"Thursday night the campers from Indian Ridge and Outpost camps gave ceremony. We walked in single file to big council ring. Led by Indian squaws. First squaw beat drum—Off beat! We had fun contests. Had fun! Watched Indians in strength contests. Much sweat and blood! Many laughs! Chief told good story. Sang campfire songs. Walked out

CAMP COOK-OUT — Mr. Gordon Fishburn, director of the west side day camp in Miller Meadows, starts the charcoal fire for young counselors during a summer cook-out. —Photo by Fabian, Park Ridge

humming taps. All liked ceremony."

"Everyone at PVF went to the county fair in Woodstock. Farmer Schultz and the boys at the Valley Camp had done a lot of work in setting up the fair so the fairgrounds people let the whole camp in free and gave everyone three free tickets for the rides. Somebody gave all of us free milk in the afternoon. We saw cows, horses, flowers, and vegetables and it was especially interesting to see the PVF exhibit. The travel campers set up their tents for two days on the fairgrounds. We ate popcorn, cotton candy, hot dogs, and drank milk; and the ferris wheel, the tilt-o-whirl and the cork-o-plane seemed to be the favorite rides. However, some of the campers didn't realize what they were getting into . . . but nobody got sick!"

"The Black Eagles went on a sleep-out which ended up back in the bunkhouse. First, there were dragons out there on Campfire Hill! Then it began to sprinkle. After we got to the porch, the storm really came and we ran for our beds in the bunkhouse."

"The first Saturday night we slept out on Campfire Hill. It was one of the best nights of the year for watching falling meteors. Janie watched the most closely and she saw 20 of them fall. Cecily pointed out various constellations in the sky. All of us saw the Milky Way but some of the others were harder to find. We saw 'Echo' many times while we were at camp and learned about the other satellites circling the globe."

THE SOCIETY'S PAGE

CAMPER AND "CONNIE"—"Connie the 'Coon" is a favorite pet of Pleasant Valley campers. Above, a young camper cuddles the baby raccoon after giving her a bottle of milk.
—Photo by Fabian, Park Ridge

News Briefs

Tells Need for Camp Supplies

Because of the heavy enrollment of campers this summer, there was a great need for additional bathing suits for the boys and girls. Several church groups responded to the emergency letter sent by Mrs. J. P. Pancoast, Director of Christian Friendship Service, in early August.

Many of the boys and girls—both at Pleasant Valley and at the camp in Bridgman—used tents and sleeping bags in the Indian-type camps. Mr. Gunnar Peterson still has need of tents and sleeping bags.

Serve Puerto Ricans on Culebra Island

Friends of the Rev. and Mrs. John K. Vincent (he was the former Director of the Casa Central) will be glad to know that Mr. Vincent is now able to walk without crutches. Mr. Vincent, who resigned from the CCMS staff in 1960 after serious hip surgery, had further surgery in San Juan, Puerto Rico, last December. The Vincents are now living on the tiny island of Culebra, about 20 miles east of the main island of Puerto Rico. Mrs. Vincent was principal of Culebra's four schools last year, and Mr. Vincent has been appointed to teach English there this year. He also serves as associate minister of the small Methodist Church on the island.

NEW CHAPEL SIGN—Mrs. Guillermo Quiceno, wife of the new assistant minister at Casa Central and the Quicenos' children, Kenneth and Phoebe, read the new bulletin board at Carpenter Building, new location of Casa Central at 40 N. Ashland Ave.
—Photo by Frank C. Zak

Mark Your Calendar for CCMS Meeting!

Have you marked Friday, December 8, on your calendar? That is the date of the Annual Meeting which will inaugurate the Society's 80th year. The dinner meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. in the Banquet Room of McCormick Place. All members and friends of the Society are invited.

The Shotts Move to Pompano Beach

Mr. Orman L. Shott, CCMS Director of Business since 1944, worked during July and August. At the start of his vacation on September 1—and with his retirement scheduled for October 1—the Shotts drove to Pompano Beach, Florida, to set up a new home for their retirement.

Do We Have Your Correct Address?

Is your address correct on the envelope in which you received this copy of *Renewal?* If not, or if you wish to have your name removed from our mailing list, please cut out your name and address on the envelope and mail it, with instructions, to Doris Roberts, Public Relations Director, 19 S. La Salle St., Room 1302, Chicago 3, Illinois.

"PETE THE CROW"—"Pete" is another favorite at the farm and entered into most of the summer activities. He awakened the cook, tweaked the ears of sleeping campers, untied their shoestrings, and sampled all of the food.

Dates Set for Meetings of CCMS Members

This fall the Society will hold three area meetings for its corporate members; each one scheduled for 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Members may attend the meeting most convenient for them.

Invitations and program details will be mailed soon to all CCMS corporate members.

Meeting dates and locations are: North Side—Sunday, October 15, First Congregational Church of Evanston; West Side—Sunday, October 22, First Congregational Church of Oak Park; and South Side—Sunday, November 12, Bryn Mawr Community Church.

Gifts Needed for Summer Work

If you have not yet contributed to the Society's summer work, your gift now will help with expenses for these greatly expanded programs.

Chicago City Missionary Society, 19 S. La Salle Street, Chicago 3, Illinois. I wish to help the children of the inner city, and enclose $_____ for summer projects.

Name_____

Street_____

City_____ State_____